

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 10 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Four Times Amended) An audio data signal processing method, in which a supplied audio data signal can be in one of a compressed data state and an uncompressed data state, for performing a process for decoding the supplied audio data signal, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether zero data continues for a predetermined period of time in said supplied audio data signal;

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determining, when zero data are detected to continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied audio data are in the compressed data state and determining, when zero data is not detected to continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied audio data are in the uncompressed state; and

performing a first decoding operation on said supplied audio data when said supplied audio data are determined to be in the compressed data state in said step of determining and

performing a second decoding operation when said supplied audio data are determined to be in the uncompressed data state and said supplied data are determined to be in the uncompressed data state in said step of determining,

D1 wherein upon detection that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding is performed by switching said supplied audio data signed to said first decoding operation based on a sync signal of said supplied audio data signal.

--7. (Twice Amended) An audio signal processor for an optical disc reproducing apparatus that supplies an audio data signal that can be in one of a compressed data state and an uncompressed data state, the processor comprising:

detection means for detecting whether zero data continue for a predetermined period of time in said supplied audio data signal;

D2 determining means for determining that said supplied audio data signal is in the compressed data state when a result of detection by said detection means is that zero data continues for said predetermined period of time and for determining that said supplied audio data signal is in the uncompressed data state when zero data is not detected to continue for said predetermined period of time; and

decoding means for performing a first decoding operation or a second decoding operation of said supplied audio data based on the result of said determination by said determining means,

wherein when said detection means detects that zero data

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continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding means switches to said first decoding operation and decodes said supplied audio data in the compressed data state using a sync signal of the supplied audio data signal, and

wherein said determining means determines that said supplied audio data are in the uncompressed data state when zero data are not detected continuously for said predetermined period of time and said decoding means performs said second decoding operation.

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--10. (Twice Amended) An audio signal processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting whether zero data continue for a predetermined period of time in supplied data;

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determining means for determining that said supplied data is compressed audio data when the result of detection by said detection means is that zero data continues for said predetermined period of time; and

decoding means for decoding said supplied data based on the result of said determination by said determining means,

wherein when said detection means detects that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding means switches to said decoding based on a sync signal of said supplied data, and decodes said supplied data, and

wherein said determining means determines that said supplied data are uncompressed audio data when zero data are not detected continuously for said predetermined period of time,

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wherein said decoding means includes a memory for storing said supplied audio data for said predetermined period of time during which it is determined whether zero data are continuously detected, and when it is determined that said supplied data are uncompressed audio data, said audio signal processing apparatus outputs the data decoded from said supplied data following the output data decoded by said decode means from said audio data stored in said memory.

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#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-13 remain in the application with claims 1, 7, and 10 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of Wakai et al.

As explained in the present specification and as represented in Fig. 3, for example, the present invention is intended to deal with the situation in which an input audio data signal may be compressed and encoded in a certain fashion or the input audio signal may, in fact, be a linear signal, such as a PCM signal, which is uncompressed. The present